



## **Legislative Bill Tracking 2005**

The 2005 legislative session was so far the most victorious for the APA community in the last 25 years. Legislators heard the Asian Pacific Islander community loud and clear. Millions of dollars were added to existing programs to assist immigrant and refugee families. Thank you and congratulations to our State legislators who were sympathetic to our API needs, and to our new Governor Christine Gregoire for giving attention to the API community, and for a successful first legislative year!

### **Here are some highlights of 2005 legislative session:**

- An additional \$1.5 million to the LEP Pathways (limited English Proficient Pathways) that provides job training and ESL classes for refugees and immigrants.
- An additional \$1 million to help refugees and immigrants become American citizens. \$80 million in state funds to make up for the loss of \$ 82 million in federal funding for mental-health patients not on Medicaid.
- An additional \$ 4 million to expand Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language programs at Community and Technical Colleges throughout the state.
- Fully restored medical coverage for immigrant children.
- \$120,000 to help first -generation immigrants find employment at the Port of Seattle through the Airport Job Programs.
- An additional \$500,000 to help revive the Korean studies program at the University of Washington.
- \$ 400,000 to the Denise Louie Education Center.
- \$ 350,000 to the Chinese Reconciliation Park in Tacoma.
- \$ 200,000 to the Filipino Community Center.
- \$ 2 million to Wing Luke Asian Museum's capital campaign for its new home in the East Kong Yick Building in the International district.
- \$ 2 million to Asian Counseling Referral Service.

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#### **Agency Overview**

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

- \$ 200,000 to the proposed Japanese Cultural and Community Center in Seattle.
- An additional \$50 million to the Linked Deposit Program, which will help minority and women-owned businesses access loans.
- A budget increase for the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs that will allow 2 FTEs instead of a 1.8 FTE.

These investments were hard decisions in a very tough budget cycle, but it will pay off in the final analysis, in terms of a stronger economy and workforce. Let us not fail to thank our legislators and our governor for a job well done!

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